

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01935 300633Z
ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: BFOL, IZ
SUBJECT: UPDATING ECONOMIC DATA ON IRAQ

REFERENCE: WEBBER-KEISWETTER TELEX OF DECEMBER 23, 1976

DEVELOPMENTS SINCE OUR EARLIER REPORTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE IRAQ GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONSTRUCT ON ITS OWN ACCOUNT
FOUR IRRIGATION PROJECTS WORTH OVER BILLION DOLLARS USING SOVIET
EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT. PROJECTS ARE: HADITHA DAM, FALLUJA
BARRAGE, THARTHAR-TIGRIS CANAL AND KIRKUK MAIN CANAL. (THE
IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS JUST COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
THARTHAR-EUPHRATES CANAL USING SOVIET EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT.)

2. IRAQI DEPUTY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN
REFORM ANNOUNCED THAT CONTRACTS WILL BE SIGNED IN EARLY
JANUARY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PHASES ONE AND TWO OF LOWER KHALIS
IRRIGATION PROJECT. SUCCESSFUL BIDDER FOR PHASE ONE IS
STILL UNKNOWN, BUT PHASE TWO HAS BEEN AWARDED TO
MECHANIZED CONSTRUCTION OF PAKISTAN AT DOLLARS 141 MILLION.
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3. EARLIER REPORTS INDICATED THAT 1976-80 FIVE YEAR
PLAN WOULD BE ANNOUNCED JANUARY 1977. NOW UNOFFICIAL
REPORTS ARE CIRCULATING THAT PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE
POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH/APRIL 1977. HOWEVER, 1977
INVESTMENT PROGRAM IS STILL EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

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